

▶ OPINION

Classroom politics: is your professor leaning to the left? **pg.5**

▶ SPORTS

Basketball: Men sweep season series against Broncos. **pg.8**

Volume 101, Number 15

DETOUR:

No more sex: A writer pays tribute to Sex and the City **pg.7**



THE COLLEGIAN

SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

Serving Saint Mary's for over a century

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

New smoke detectors on campus

Heat sensors to lessen fire alarm occurrences and fire engine appearances

by Cori Simpson
Staff Writer

After a semester of fire alarms going off for non life-threatening situations, Residence Life has enacted new changes to get rid of the problem.

In this academic year, there have been 43 fire alarms in the residence halls.

Because of changes made over Jan Term break, there have only been four alarms this semester and they have been spread out among four different residence halls as opposed to the usual concentration at Ageno B.

Previously, when a fire alarm went off, the alarm company would automatically call the local fire department.

The fire department would then dispatch three engines to come to the scene and contact Public Safety.

If public safety had an officer on the scene and could verify that there was no smoke or fire,

then the fire department would cancel two of the fire engines.

Over Jan Term break, the campus replaced the existing smoke detectors with heat detectors.

Now if an alarm goes off it will set off a local alarm instead of the whole building. When the temperature reaches a certain degree in the room, it will set off the sprinklers and notify the fire department.

However, in some of the rooms, this new heat detector was placed too close to the heater air vent, setting off the detector when the heater turned on.

The Office of Residence Life had the alarm company come in and put in a new heat detector head so that this will not be a problem in the future.

Michael Viola, acting assistant director of residence life said in case there is a problem, "hopefully it will set off their alarm and on their way out they will remember to pull the pull-station alarm for the whole building. They should also call 9-1-1, but

that should be done from a safe location."

When asked why there seem to be the most alarms set off in Ageno B, Viola said, "I don't know. That's a question that the alarm company can't answer for us. It could be that it has to do with the design of the building and the way it heats up."

Fortunately, even for Ageno B residents, the new changes should prevent such a high number of inconvenient fire alarms.

The new alarm system will still maintain student safety, but also will reduce unnecessary visits by the fire department.

Students won't have to worry about disrupting their lives when someone burns toast or pulls the fire alarm as a malicious prank.

The changes were made to benefit both students and the local fire department.

"We are changing gears in switching out the smoke detectors to curb the situation of dumping the whole building when an alarm goes off," said Viola.



Lisette Garcia/COLLEGIAN

Visits by Moraga fire department will hopefully subside with the new system.

Now when there is a fire alarm, the whole building only has to be evacuated if there really is an emergency.

"We are trying to align ourselves better with the fire code and the fire marshal so we don't have to inconvenience people when they make a non life-threatening mistake," said Viola.

The students who live in the most affected areas have been greatly inconvenienced. Mary

Mayo '06, a resident in Ageno B has experienced these alarms.

"It's annoying and frustrating to be sent out in the cold late at night or early in the morning," said Mayo.

"It's the worst when you have to finish some homework and you end up reading outside when you're waiting for the fire department to arrive."

Additional reporting by Chris Mateo.

Expressions of Blackness makes third appearance

Performances celebrate black cultures

by Chris Mateo
News Editor

The third annual Expressions of Blackness program will present several performances today at 5:00 p.m. in the Soda Center to help educate the audience about the black cultures and the countries they have derived from.

Meron Misgun '05, president of the Black Student Union, played a major part in organizing this event.

"I'm very excited about it," said Misgun. "It was a very long process in planning Expressions

and I can't wait to see the final product. The officers [of BSU] as well as the members helped out with the production. It's an event to celebrate, educate, and display the black culture."

Misgun will take part as an Eritrean dancer - celebrating her own native country. "A majority of the time I'll be behind the scenes, but I'm happy to perform for the Eritrea dance."

In the rough script of Expressions of Blackness, there is skit that involves the search for more

see EXPRESSIONS, p2

Gay marriages carry on

SMC students respond to SF actions

by Brent Mills
Staff Writer

On February 12, San Francisco's County Clerk's office opened its doors to same-sex couples.

Over 3,000 same-sex couples have now obtained marriage licenses recognizing them as legally wed citizens.

Last Saturday, February 21, San Francisco's city hall was barren except for the police barricades across from the building and several news vans.

The marriages were called off for the weekend by Mayor Gavin Newsom and began again on Monday by appointment only.

The validity of those marriage licenses is still uncertain. Judge Ronald Evans

Quidachay denied the request for a temporary restraining order on the marriages Friday and the Attorney General's office is looking to try and declare Newsom's decision a violation of state law, according to the Los Angeles Times.

At the GOP convention meeting at Burlingame, Governor Schwarzenegger told the crowd that he had sent a letter to Attorney General Bill Lockyer in which he asked Lockyer to expedite his efforts defending the state against San Francisco's lawsuit.

Lockyer agrees with Schwarzenegger that same-sex marriages are illegal but thinks the demand from Schwarzenegger was uncalled for, stating in a *Con-*

see MARRIAGE, p2

Safe Rides to be completed soon

Program to use independent taxi company to help students

by James Lee
Staff Writer

Have you ever found it hard to find a designated driver to take you back from a party or bar, or even find a ride home from the BART station when the buses aren't running?

Soon those worries will cease to exist for SMC students. ASSMC president, Tony Ancelj, along with a committee has almost completed the task of starting a Safe Rides program. This would be a service to the student body to offer anyone a safe ride back to campus.

Safe Rides will be available to any SMC undergrad and will be free of charge. It will be co-funded by the Associated Students of Saint Mary's College and the Student Affairs Office.

The service will be available seven days a week and 24 hours a day while school is in session, so the only times where Safe Rides won't be up and running is during the summer and winter breaks.

It will be through a local taxi company based in Walnut Creek. "An independent company was chosen to give rides because it would be the most reliable to be available at all hours and also because other schools we were looking to model after did the same," said Ancelj.

The process will work by the student calling the taxi company directly and the student showing their identification card to the driver. Only SMC students with ID will be allowed in the cab, so no guests of any students will be allowed on the same taxi. For



Photo Illustration by Lisette Garcia/COLLEGIAN

With Safe Rides, SMC hopes to prevent alcohol-related accidents.

those concerned that parents and administration will know about the circumstances under which they had to use Safe Rides, "all of personal information will not be seen by any administrator," said Mike Zoll, Vice Provost of student affairs. "Underage intoxication is not an issue, first off no one of authority will see who individually is using the service, we just want everyone to be able to get back on campus safely if their safety is in jeopardy for any rea-

son," said Zoll.

Although Safe Rides is usually associated with drinking, remember that one can use it for several different unsafe situations. "Say a girl goes out on a date with someone and feels threatened by the guy and would not want to come back with him, well in that case she could use Safe Rides as an alternative so she wouldn't have to worry or try to find anyone else

see SAFE RIDES, p2

What's Happening

APASA general meeting

The APASA general meeting will be on Thursday, February 26 in Hagerty Lounge at 6:00 p.m.

Art Club meeting

On Wednesday, Feb. 25, the Art Club will have a meeting from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Art Studio 1. Free pizza and drinks will be provided. For more information, contact artclub@stmarys-ca.edu.

Ash Wednesday

Feb. 25 is Ash Wednesday. Ashes will be distributed at the 12:10 p.m. Liturgy, the 5:15 p.m. Eucharist, and the 8:00 p.m. Eucharist. Classes originally scheduled between 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 12:40 p.m. to 1:40 p.m. will now be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 1:40 p.m. All other classes will not be affected.

Expressions of Blackness

The third annual Expressions of Blackness program organized by Black Student Programs will take place today from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Soda Activity Center. For more information contact Brian Stanley at x4349.

General Assembly

The Associated Students Senate will hold a General Assembly meeting on Sunday, February 29 at 6:00 p.m. in Claey's Lounge, Soda Activity Center.

Masquerade Ball

The Masquerade Ball will take place on Friday, February 27 in the Soda Activity Center.

Romero

"Romero" a film inspired by the life, work, and death of Archbishop Oscar Romero will be presented on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Soda Center.

Senior pictures

From February 24 to Feb. 27, senior pictures will be taken in the Delphine Multicultural Lounge.

The Debut

On Monday, March 1, a 'dine and discuss' on the movie *The Debut* will be held. From 5:30 p.m. to 7:10 p.m. a viewing of the movie will take place in the Soda Center. From 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Filipino food will be served and a discussion will take place in the Delphine Multicultural Lounge. During this time, Gene Cajayon, the director of *The Debut*, will be present for discussion. Please RSVP for the dine and discuss portion of the program with Mary Ho at x8317.

Yearbook photos

Underclassmen photos for the yearbook will be taken on Monday, March 1 and Tuesday, March 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Dryden Hall; for more information call x4673.

If you have any events you would like to see posted, please email the event with details to collegian@stmarys-ca.edu.

Crime Beat

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 2/14 | 12:14 a.m. | North Claey's parking lot; referred to student conduct. |
| Incident: Disturbing the peace | | |
| Synopsis: Disturbing the peace at Becket and More Halls; referred to student conduct. | | |
| 2/14 | 3:12 a.m. | |
| Incident: Tampering with equipment | | |
| Synopsis: Tampering with fire protection equipment in Assumption Hall, first floor East stairwell; referred to student conduct. | | |
| 2/14 | 8:10 p.m. | |
| Incident: Hit and run | | |
| Synopsis: Hit and run (non-injury) in Canyon parking lot; referred to student conduct. | | |
| 2/14 | 10:30 p.m. | |
| Incident: Found weapon | | |
| Synopsis: Weapon found (knife) in Hagerty lounge kitchen area; referred to student conduct. | | |
| 2/15 | 1:40 p.m. | |
| Incident: Grand theft | | |
| Synopsis: Grand theft (cell phone and 50 CD's) from | | |
| 2/15 | 7:05 p.m. | |
| Incident: Alarm | | |
| Synopsis: Hearst Art Gallery alarm activated; referred to student conduct. | | |
| 2/16 | 5:00 p.m. | |
| Incident: Phone calls | | |
| Synopsis: Annoying/repeated phone calls to De La Salle Hall; referred to student conduct. | | |
| 2/17 | 10:09 p.m. | |
| Incident: Suspicious circumstance | | |
| Synopsis: Suspicious circumstance in roadway in front of Syufy Hall; referred to student conduct. | | |
| 2/19 | 4:32 p.m. | |
| Incident: Traffic violation | | |
| Synopsis: Traffic violation (speeding) at De La Salle drive at library; referred to student conduct. | | |

SAFE RIDES: program provides taxis

continued from pg 1

to pick her up," said Zoll.

In addition, if students are stuck at BART because the person that was supposed to pick them up is nowhere to be found students could use Safe Rides to get back to campus.

With all of the administrators backing this new program, including provost Sally Stamp, President Brother Craig and his cabinet, it shows that the safety of the students is a great concern

to all of them.

Ancelj advises students not to abuse the new service by calling for rides back from the supermarket, or getting a ride back to school just because they do not feel like driving that day.

Safe Rides is set up so that anyone feeling in danger will have an alternate mode of transportation. Ancelj hopes that the trial period will go smoothly and all will benefit from Safe Rides.

| ASH WEDNESDAY Schedule | |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 12:10 p.m. Liturgy | Regular: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. |
| 5:15 p.m. Eucharist | 12:40 p.m.-1:40 p.m. |
| 8:00 p.m. Eucharist | Ash Wednesday: 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. |
| Ashes will be distributed at every service. | 1:00 p.m.-1:40 p.m. |

THE STUDENT HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

Ground Floor Augustine Hall
Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-6pm
631-4254

Did You Know??? The Health and Wellness Center now offers confidential **STI testing** for all undergraduate students. Call or stop by the Health Center to make an appointment or for more information.

Prevention is the best protection! Practicing abstinence will keep you 100% safe. If you are sexually active, always use a condom.

SEXUAL RESPONSIBILITY WEEK February 19-26

Look for information tables and pick up your "Sex in a Sack" kit.

Do you enjoy people, working with other students and are you concerned about health issues? **Join Peer Educators Network (PEN)!!** Call or stop by the Health Center for more information.



MARRIAGE: controversy continues

continued from pg 1

tra Costa Times wire report that "he can't direct the attorney general in the way he's attempted to do".

The Campaign for California Families and many opponents of same-sex marriage believe that California Family Code 308.5—the Defense of Marriage Act voted in by Proposition 22 in 2000—prohibits Newson's decision.

The Defense of Marriage Act states, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

"It's unconstitutional," said SMC student Chris Mowery '06. "Marriage is a union between two people with the intent for procreation. That can't occur with two people of the same sex. They're entering into something that wasn't created for them."

Nathan Kawasura '06, feels that the same sex marriage issue is more morally wrong as opposed to legally wrong.

Newsom believes the equal protection clause of the California Constitution will support his decision to allow same-sex mar-

riages and overrides the Defense of Marriage Act as being unconstitutional.

"It's not up to him to make that decision," said Ana Canjura '06. "He's doesn't represent all of California in deciding that."

Students at Saint Mary's are split in their opinions of the recent events. Christine Nerney '07 saw no reason why same-sex marriages shouldn't be allowed.

"If you're in love with someone, you should be allowed to marry them," said Nerney. "Discrimination against homosexuals is the same as discrimination against race."

Colin De Leon Horton '05, believes homosexuals deserve the same rights as heterosexuals and finds fault with the current definition of marriage. "I don't see why it should be strictly between men and women," he said. "It bugs me that there's a push to change the United States Constitution to discriminate against homosexuals."

It will likely be a while before a verdict on the issue is ultimately made. But marriage licenses will still be granted to any same-sex couple meeting the license criteria on Monday.

EXPRESSIONS: skit to educate

continued from pg 1

information in understanding the African American culture by one of the students.

Throughout this dialogue, June helps Chizo research the different cultures that make up the African American culture.

This "research" is then followed by a performance to enhance the speaker's words.

The performances throughout the skit include a choir singing the "Black National Anthem," speeches by individuals portraying Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Madam C.J. Walker, a dance by Pulses, cultural dances from Jamaica, Eritrea, and Nigeria, and a final presentation by the choir and praise dancers.

facials • face & body waxing • lash & brow tinting

Jeanne D'Arc's
skincare

At Skinations

925.212.8664

1372 N. Main St. #203

Walnut Creek, CA 94596

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>\$5.00 off eyebrow waxing</p> <p>Jeanne D'Arc's skincare</p> <p>At Skinations • (925)212-8664 1372 N. Main St. #203 Walnut Creek, CA 94596</p> | <p>Receive one free 35 minute facial with any five services purchased</p> <p>Jeanne D'Arc's skincare</p> <p>At Skinations • (925)212-8664 1372 N. Main St. #203 Walnut Creek, CA 94596</p> |
| <p>\$10.00 off any facial</p> <p>Jeanne D'Arc's skincare</p> <p>At Skinations • (925)212-8664 1372 N. Main St. #203 Walnut Creek, CA 94596</p> | <p>\$25.00 off any series of 3 facials</p> <p>Jeanne D'Arc's skincare</p> <p>At Skinations • (925)212-8664 1372 N. Main St. #203 Walnut Creek, CA 94596</p> |

Students 'push' for Ethnic studies

Students and faculty gather to arrange an addition to the SMC curriculum

by **Andrea Camarena**
Editor-in-Chief

Ten years ago, Professors Phylis Martinelli, Ph.D. and Paola Sensi-Isolani, Ph.D. began the Ethnic Studies minor with hopes that the program would continue to grow and meet students' needs.

In the spring of 2003, Martinelli brought the idea of re-evaluating Ethnic Studies to Sally Stamp, then Vice-President.

Martinelli saw a need for "a new and improved ethnic studies that would better serve the Saint Mary's student body."

"Students want ethnic studies, but we have not been able to really develop a program that is user friendly to students," Martinelli said.

In a meeting with Stamp and Dean Frances Sweeney last Spring, Martinelli impressed that "there was a real desire on the part of the student body to move forward with an ethnic studies that is enhanced, that is better than what we have now."

Since that meeting, Shawny Anderson has sponsored three meetings with faculty and one student leader to discuss the development of Ethnic Studies at Saint Mary's.

Elaine Abelaye '04, was invited to participate in the ethnic studies conversation after she contacted Martinelli on the subject over the summer. As the president of the Asian American Student Association, Abelaye says that the APA students often discuss the need for an ethnic studies program. "It's something we want to push."

Abelaye defines ethnic studies as a study of the histories of minority groups in the United States not necessarily people of color.

The idea that an ethnic studies program is exclusive to specific groups of students arose as a concern from administration.

"One of the things we're looking at in 2004 is an ethnic studies that is open to people of all backgrounds and this concern came from the administrative level."

"They were concerned that ethnic studies might be viewed as a program that would exclude students that are not of an ethnic background," said Martinelli.

A member of the WASC diversity committee, Martinelli hopes to analyze the interest level in either furthering the minor or creating a major.

According to Martinelli and Abelaye, interest in Ethnic Studies continues to grow. The sub-

ject has even come up in speeches by several speakers participating in the Social Justice series.

"The people to work with are the people who have taken ethnic studies and women's studies and have an awareness of diversity and of justice. Many of the white students we teach at predominately white colleges become the teachers, become the librarians. So to the extent that they develop an anti-racist non-patriarchal consciousness, they offer the possibility of liberation." bell hooks said when asked about the importance of ethnic studies at her talk last week.

As of now, the committee led by Anderson has worked to put out a definition of ethnic studies. As of January, Martinelli has drafted a definition and the committee will continue to discuss the next steps in meetings this spring.

As for the future of ethnic studies, in whatever way it develops, Martinelli says that it will stay under the wing of the Anthropology/Sociology department.

She hopes to see the new Irvine Scholars become a part of the development of Ethnic Studies at Saint Mary's.

Beyond the Bubble

National and world news bites

Tony Vala-Haynes

After a consistent losing streak in the Democratic primaries, former Vermont Governor Howard Dean pulled out of the presidential race Wednesday, February 18.

Former Tour de France champion, Marco Pantani, was found dead in his hotel room, Saturday, February 14. Pantani, who won the Tour in 1998, is rumored to have been using cocaine and antidepressants. Thousands gathered in Pantani's hometown in Italy, Cesenatico, to mourn his death on Wednesday.

A Washington National Guard soldier, Ryan G. Anderson, 26, was formally charged Wednesday with trying to aid al Qaida. His message to al Qaida was intercepted by the F.B.I. The message read: "I share your cause."

A whites-only scholarship was awarded Wednesday by a Republican student organization at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. The Republican student organization wanted to show the problem with race-based scholarships and affirmative action.

Gary Barnett, the University of Colorado head football coach, has been placed on paid administrative leave due to his remarks regarding his female placekicker, an alleged victim of rape. Regarding her ability as a placekicker he reportedly said she's "awful."

Scientists have confirmed that black holes can indeed consume stars. Observations from telescopes every ten years show a black hole being ripped apart, and devoured by a black hole.

After the destruction of the Columbia in 2003, NASA planned to launch a space shuttle by late September or early October. However, due to new research involving the airflow around the fuel tank, the launch will most likely be delayed until 2005.

(Sources: CNN.com, Msnbc.com, Contra Costa Times, The San Francisco Chronicle)

Corrections

- News: bell hooks was misspelled in our front page article in Issue 14 on February 18.
- Opinion: The cartoon in the February 18 issue was drawn by Marco Torres not by Sam Adams.
- Sports: There was misinformation in the article *Chin's Corner*. Please see Sports for more corrections.

SNAPSHOT



Lisette Garcia/COLLEGIAN

In preparation for Mardi Gras, the band "Ms. B" performed at latenight on Thursday, February 19. The New Orleans-style band fit right in with the jambalaya and decorations.

Sexual Identity Relationships

EXPLORE YOUR SEXUALITY!

Join our Weekly Support Group

Men & Women of all Sexual Orientations Welcome

CANDID, SAFE, ENGAGING DISCUSSIONS

Meetings on Wednesdays 5:15 - 6:15 pm

Call or come by the Counseling Center to schedule an initial individual meeting.

102 DeLaSalle Hall, x4364

Ask for Molly Zook, Psy.D. or Robin Hemenway, M.A.

What's your preference?

Gay? Straight? Bi? Don't Know?

THE COLLEGIAN

P.O. Box 4407 - Moraga, CA 94575
Second Floor of Ferroggiaro Hall
Telephone: 925.631.4279
Fax: 925.631.4675
E-mail: collegia@stmarys-ca.edu
smcnet.stmarys-ca.edu/gaelpage

The Collegian is the official newspaper of the Associated Students of Saint Mary's College. The Collegian is published weekly, except during examination periods and academic recesses. The Collegian reserves the right to hold and edit all submitted materials, solicited and unsolicited. The Collegian View is the unsigned opinion of the Collegian Editorial Board. The Collegian Editorial Board is comprised of all oversight staff members. Other opinions expressed are not necessarily endorsed by the Collegian, its contributors and/or advertisers. To place an advertisement or inquire about a subscription, call the Collegian Business Department at 925.631.4279.

Staff

ANDREA CAMARENA
Editor-in-Chief

CHRIS SWAIN
Managing Editor

JOSH KREHBIEL
Chief Copy Editor

LISSETTE GARCIA
Chief Photographer

AMY BETH KELLY
Photo Editor

DAVID ARDEN
CHRIS LUCCHETTI
Business Managers

CHRIS MATEO
News Editor
KATIE KIMBALL
Opinion Editor
PABLO ARMAS
Assistant Opinion Editor
SAM ADAMS
Sports Editor
KIM DAO
Detour Editor
JONATHAN MORALES
In-Depth Editor

ANA MONTANEZ
Layout Designer

ELLEN RIGSBY
Faculty Advisor

KEN FUNG
LIZ HEARST
CHRISTINA MCAFEE
ALLISON MOORE
CHRIS MOORE
NICK SYLVA
DANIELLE TINSLEY
Photographers

ANGEL REFUGIO
MARCO TORRES
Cartoonists

KATIE ALPIZAR
JO-ANN ARQUILLANO
MICHAEL CHIN
MICHELLE DALIDA

PATRICK DOOLEY
LARA ENDRESZL
JESSICA GUTIERREZ
ADRIANNE GALLO
ANNA GATES
CAITLIN HUNGATE
JAMES "PANDA" LEE
JESSICA LEE
WHITNEY LEONARD
BRENT MILLS
MARISSA NICHOLS
JESSE RADIN
KATYANA SACRO
CORI SIMPSON
JOHN SLOBODIN
MELISSA STETSON
JESSICA TSOU
TONY VALA-HAYNES
Staff Writers

Getting Passionate about The Passion

Jessica Gutierrez

Ten years ago Mel Gibson was an extremely popular actor, the "it" boy of Hollywood. At the time he was heavily abusing drugs and alcohol, and at the lowest point, he contemplated suicide. But let me get to the point before I begin to sound like an aimlessly rambling episode of *E! True Hollywood Story*. This "height of spiritual bankruptcy," as he once described it, became the catalyst for him turning his life over to God, and it inspired him to make *The Passion of the Christ*, debuting Feb. 25, Ash Wednesday.

I wish we could just end the article here and say that the movie grossed millions, Christ's message was received by the world, and that there is now peace and harmony in the Middle East. But life isn't like that, and it seems that for anything to be great it has to be shrouded in controversy. And that is just what Gibson's movie is surrounded by.

Critics and religious leaders around the world are deliberating whether or not the movie's portrayal of Christ's crucifixion is gratuitously violent. The film so movingly and accurately displays the last twelve hours of Christ's life, we can't deny it to be anything but violent, Catholic and Atheist alike. If that disturbs moviegoers so much that they have to protest, then lets consider another popular film that came out this past year - *Kill Bill*. Dare I say, graphic much? Great movie, lots of gore, deal with it or don't see it, end of story. *The Passion*, unlike *Kill Bill*, is considered to be both a religious and historical movie that is known by millions of people all over the world, so to be shocked and opposed to its content would be overlooking its captivating story. If America can sit through its California governor's *Terminator* movies, it can definitely sit through the story of Jesus Christ.

So what other type of controversy is there? The film has been accused of being anti-Semitic in its portrayal of the Jewish role in Jesus' death. Gibson has insisted on countless occasions that he is no anti-Semite, and that anti-Semitism is un-Christian and a sin that goes against the tenets of his faith. It is so much against his faith that when asked who killed Jesus, he replied, "The big answer is, we all did. I'll be the first in the culpability stakes here." Gibson is trying to share with the world the story of the Gospels through his passion and craft, film. There were Jews and Romans in Israel, they persecuted and killed Jesus Christ, that is part of the biblical story, so that is part of the movie, which is done in the Latin and Aramic language of the time. It's ironic that the main buzz is about racism and violence while Gibson is trying to get its real message out there. He says, "It's about faith, hope, love and forgiveness. That's what this film is about. It's about Christ's sacrifice." The film's purpose is supposedly to inspire introspection and to make people feel. Will you see it?

Collegian View

Despite good intentions students (ourselves at the Collegian included) seem to lack any motivation to get overly involved, active, in the upcoming democratic primaries and presidential election.

With the upcoming California primaries just over a week away, little, if any fuss has been made on campus about candidates, issues or campaigning.

Ralph Nader announced on Sunday that he would be running again for president. The announcement aroused Democrats who fear a possible 'repeat' of the 2000 election, while Republicans feel certain Bush is unbeatable and Nader's entering the race will only help their cause.

John Kerry and John Edwards are still fighting for the democratic nomination.

All of these events are occurring while the students of Saint Mary's indulge in their political indifference to the world for fear of being branded: left or right.

Granted, students of both the left and right are highly involved in service work throughout the Bay Area volunteering in soup kitchens, tutoring, interning at non-profit organizations in a continually increasing trend of students toward service work.

Yet, there seems to be a disconnect for students in understanding service within a context that has political implications.

These political implications affect our ability to understand ourselves as students, as citizens, and as a nation on a global level.

What we do, is who we are.

So, that makes Saint Mary's students highly active in service (part of our identity) as a college that inspires students to enter to learn and leave to serve. At the same time SMC leaves students short-changed in fostering their own political beliefs, not the ideologies passed down from their parents.

The Collegian has worn out its soapbox for telling students to become involved in everything, anything, something so instead we have a new proposition for the students of Saint Mary's: don't do anything.

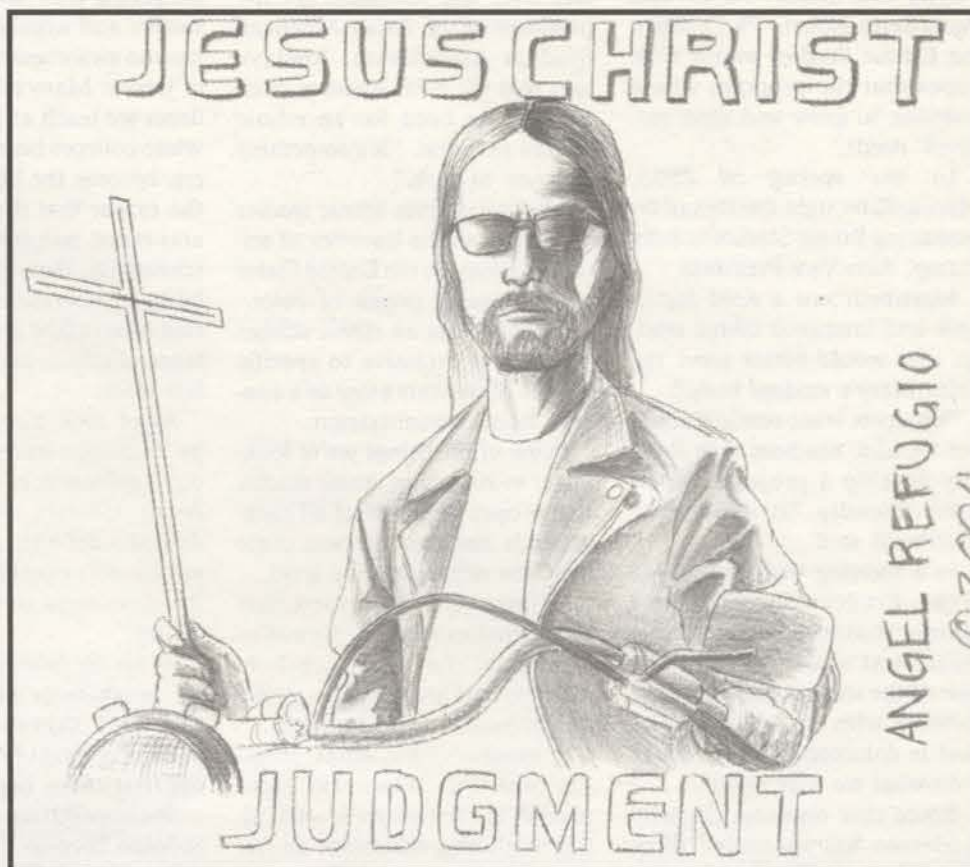
It's not all too complicated because all students need to do is absolutely nothing more or less than they are currently doing.

Students will still go class, get grades, and graduate.

Students will still read the newspaper and discard it.

Students will still be indifferent.

So, don't vote and please never question the world you live in for fear of being branded.



Cartoon by Angel Refugio/COLLEGIAN
The madness of Mel Gibson plus the cinematic violence of the terminator equals the passion of Christ.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR may be submitted to the *Collegian* through mail, email, or in person. All letters should be no more than 150 words in length. The *Collegian* holds the right to edit any submitted material, solicited or unsolicited. Submit to collegia@stmarys-ca.edu

The face of Saint Mary's College

You live here
You work here
You learn here
Have a voice here

Be heard at SMC

Submit an entry to
'Community Views'

collegia@stmarys-ca.edu

GAEL POLL

Photos by
Lisette Garcia
Compiled by
Pablo Armas

100

SMC students were polled on their opinion of classroom politics.

Should professors bring their political views into the classroom?

"No, because I feel they should be unbiased and open to other opinions of the students."

Jennifer McIntyre '04

Bringing politics into the classroom

On the left

by Pablo Armas

by Jon Slobodin

The right side

We all have opinions, what's the problem?

Trouble in Academia, leftist indoctrination

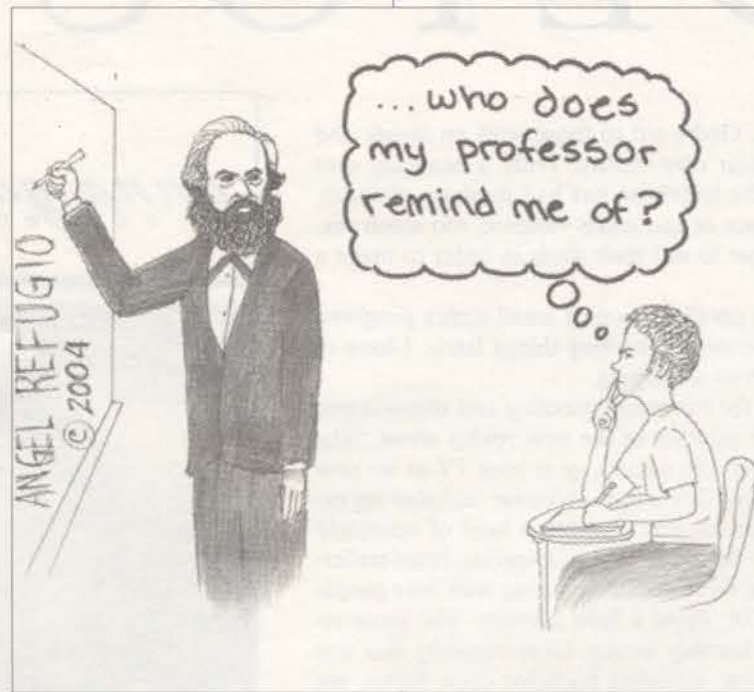
I have been attending Saint Mary's now for the past two years and never have I ran into a professor whose political ideologies have entered the classroom and hindered my growth as a student.

I hear about other professors and their personalities from my friends and suitemates. And more often than not, whenever I hear my suitemates talk about their professors, I have never heard "That professor is too liberal for me," or "I can't stand conservative professors like that." I'll hear other complaints about the professor such as "She assigns too much work." or "He is a tough grader." (Note: I cleaned up the language of my suitemates a bit). However, none of those complaints has had to do with political ideologies.

But let us say that a professor does present his or her political ideologies in the classroom. In certain classes, a teacher's personal politics may come up. All the professors that I have had were really good about the way in which they presented their own political views. They never tried to indoctrinate anybody in the class into believing their own political ideologies, and were open to different points of view.

Also, the professors that I have encountered who share their political opinions hold a variety of different ideologies. They covered the political spectrum, ranging in their political beliefs from left wing to moderate to right wing. Perhaps at a school like UC Berkeley, one would be apt to find a horde of liberal professors - but here at Saint Mary's, it seems like professors run the political gamut, bringing variety into the classroom.

Finally, does it really matter to the students what kind of voter



a student's professor is? Not really. Just because a professor shares their opinion doesn't mean that you have to go along with it or even agree with it. As long as students get the education they pay for and deserve, it should not matter how liberal or conservative a professor is. Besides, the professor's opinions may provide a good way to get a conversation going on in class, particularly seminar. What better way to get the class all riled up about something then to have the professor say something to the class and have the class argue with the professor about it?

It may even open the eyes of students to seeing points of views they haven't previously considered, or reinforce their current beliefs.

All in all, the opinions of the professors matter little in the scheme of things. What matters the most isn't what the professor's opinions are, but rather what the students learn from the classroom of that professor.

Ah, the first day of college, the day each rookie student looks back on how hard they worked to get here, and looks forward to the great experiences college offers. More importantly, he or she looks forward to the incomparable, well-rounded higher education only Daddy's twenty years at the law firm could buy. Little do they know that they are about to be indoctrinated with leftist, almost veering on socialist, propaganda, the likes of which have never been seen in this country.

There are many problems with today's universities. One big one, and one which many people don't seem to want to talk about, is the overriding liberal bias of today's college faculties. Unquestionably, a huge majority of campus faculty across the country leans toward the left. In study after study of different campuses, well over 95 percent of the faculties were registered as liberals, while less than five per-

cent were registered as conservative (dailycampus.com).

This is perfectly fine, of course. The problem arises when these teachers hijack the course with their ideologies and present only their views and do not allow other views to be heard. At a different school, I had a class in which every book we had to read could easily be construed as socialist propaganda. Any time that I tried to play devil's advocate, I was either yelled at, told to be quiet, or called ignorant by the teacher or some other student.

My concern is that an overwhelming dominance by liberal professors deprives students of stimulating and balanced debates, and in some cases, punishes students for their conservative views. One student from Bowling Green was used by his professor as an example of an "imperialist enemy" because he was a soldier, and he was told that he failed the class because he was in the Army (gopusa.com). Even if most students aren't punished for their views, the indoctrination is toxic enough for the students. It is very ironic that these professors who are so tolerant of diversity in general are so intolerant when it comes to intellectual diversity.

Let me state for the record that I am not a conservative. In fact, I think that the study of controversial topics and unpopular ideas definitely have a place in the classroom. But "thought reform" and mandated "group think" do not. Blatant and oppressive bias dishonors the teaching profession, undermines the open search for truth, and has predictable consequences: student anger, frustration, and intimidation. There's always going to be an overwhelming majority of liberal professors, but all I ask is that both sides of the coin are shown.

A Seriously Impaired Institution

Michelle Dalida

My computer is a decorative ornament without the use of the internet. Living on campus this year, I find this to be the case more often than not. The internet has been a campus annoyance affecting students and faculty by interrupting the use of Blackboard, e-mail, and other common internet applications. The one thing I find to be the most frustrating out of the whole process of figuring out what is truly going on with the internet is dealing with ITS.

Frankly, it is just irritating. Not only is our internet not as powerful and fast as other campuses' networks, but it doesn't work about half the time for students at pivotal points in the school semester. I do not understand why they could not fix the Ethernet, if it was having viral problems, during Jan Term break. Turning off the internet only bothers me more because it implies to me that ITS has no idea how to fix bugs on our server.

This is only one example of the many problematic situations students find with school-wide services. When students - who need to buy books, use the internet, and eat - are denied use and access to these basic needs, it is a travesty. Let's take, for example, Sodexo's one week lag on renewing flex dollars on students' meal plan accounts. Yeah, I was one of the many students who was probably starving and trying to buy food at the Brickpile, only to be heartily denied by a student worker who claimed I had a fat zero on my account. Later that day, I was in need of a book that the bookstore said they were going to receive that day, only to get to the bookstore and find it closed - at 7 p.m. Perhaps it is my own fault for thinking that a bookstore should be open past 7 p.m., but since our bookstore is affiliated with Barnes and Noble (which has a closing time of 11pm, I might add) I thought it would be open at least until 8 p.m., especially during the first two weeks of school. I wonder why students find themselves in this predicament with our college. Do we not have the right to be treated with every courtesy and privilege that students from every other university have?

Personally, I am not asking much from SMC: just a working Ethernet, a few measly bucks on my ID card, and a bookstore that can accommodate the busiest of students. However, it is still hard for SMC to deliver this to us half of the time. If a product I have invested in worked half the time, I would readily trash it and write a heated letter to the manufacturer. But even though the students complain and wonder, it seems like nothing can be done about the situation. I guess I just have to live with a first-class education at a second-rate institution.

To respond to this column or any other article in the paper, send an email to collegia@stmarys-ca.edu

It's not your major, it's you

English and Integral Majors, just as likely to succeed as other majors

by Tony Vala-Haynes

Staff Writer

I'm sick of hearing that it will be impossible to find a job when I graduate because I'm an English major who has wasted my time reading Shakespeare and learning to read Chaucer in Middle English. I'm sick of hearing that Integral majors will be homeless after they graduate because they've wasted 4 years reading Aristotle and studying Euclid. I refuse to believe those of us who develop a passion for the arts at, God forbid, a liberal arts college, will be stuck with

sloppy seconds when we enter the career world.

Granted, the major I have chosen will not train me to sit at a desk and crunch numbers for fifty-grand a year while trying to keep my rear end from falling asleep. If I wanted to waste away in an office, constantly looking out the window to the freedom that lies just out of reach (i.e. the world), I would certainly not have become an English major. Due to a restless imagination that I hope is worth more than fifty-grand a year, I will continue to read Shakespeare and talk Aristotle

with my Integral friends. I choose to be an English major to further my knowledge and develop an imagination that may someday change something in this world for the better. However, I don't think my major or anyone else's major will determine our future.

Please don't tell me those of us in search of knowledge will find no place to apply our ideas in the real world. Change requires an original mind that has taken its education seriously and wishes to share its gift with the rest of us. This does not include

only English and Integral majors. Simply reading Shakespeare does not make me intelligent -- just as memorizing formulas does not make the Math major brilliant. It's not what you study; it's the passion with which you study.

Anyone with a passion to succeed, including both English and Integral majors, will find work after college. Don't tell me my major is pointless. Everyone's major is pointless. Without drive, without passion, you'll be lucky to get stuck with sloppy seconds. It's not your major that determines your future. It's you.

72%

of students have had a professor bring their political views into class.

"As long as they don't try to indoctrinate them into their views and are open to crossfire in debate, there's nothing wrong with it."

Jim Owen '06

21%

of students felt that their professors' political views hindered their learning experience.

"No, because the teachers should be helping the students devise their own ideas, not influencing them."

Keegan Cooks '07

by Lara Endreszl, Staff Writer

When There is No More 'Sex'

Carrie and her girls raise their Cosmopolitans one last time

Do we ever really get over a breakup? Something as

monumental as a first love or an incredibly meaningful relationship would send most people hiding under their sheets at the first mention of "moving on." It seems to me that women are constantly emotionally obsessing and analyzing every phone message, every scribbled note, and every sigh in their voice. Women think men however, seem to get over things pretty quickly. A new lover, a new hobby, a new pet, and it seems that he forgets what he used to have with "the one who broke his heart." Men don't forget. They just block it out of their minds with lots of beer, cigarettes, and poker parties with the guys until he forgets that he wanted to call her and hang up, just to hear her voice. Same with women, except our remedies are shopping for Manolo Blahniks or any other lesser-priced pair of shoes with the same, "these definitely show that I'm over him" meaning conveyed with every new step, and gabbing with our girlfriends until they can no longer stand to hear or talk about him or the failed relationship.

Sex and the City and HBO are breaking up. How are we, their devoted fans, going to cope? It has been six short years since Carrie and her girls started oozing sex onto the small screen. Our love affair with these four women and their sex lives is ending. Will we spend our Sunday nights alone? *Sex and the City* was brave to step out of the limelight while it is still ahead in the ratings. I predict Carrie will most definitely end up with Mr. Big, as she should, Miranda will stay in Brooklyn with her family and succumb to a happy life outside Manhattan, Smith and Samantha will stay together post-cancer and Charlotte will learn that she and Harry have successfully adopted a child.

Whether or not you follow the show religiously I'm sure you know a girl (or a group of them) who has claimed they take after one of these women: the fashion-guru dreamer Carrie, conservative and charming Charlotte, seductive like Samantha or levelheaded like Miranda. Whether it is a Sunday morning brunch or a Saturday night gossip fest geared at sex lives and active libidos—or lack thereof—you can be sure that *SATC*'s adoring fans will cope with their loss, today and everyday, by not being shy to discuss sex, raise their Cosmopolitans high, purchase four-hundred dollar shoes and praise this fantastic show for six wonderful years of foreplay, fashion and fun!



by jon slobodin, staff writer

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED EVENT, MANY VARIED AND DIVERSE ACTIVIST GROUPS ARE SAYING THAT THEY ARE OFFENDED BY A MOVIE YET TO BE SHOWN, FILMED, OR EVEN CAST.

"In light of today's very diverse and sensitive culture," says Guy Osaka, leader of the group Asians Against Racial Insensitivity, "it is never too early to be offended by outrageous and controversial pieces of art that don't actually exist. Even though I have no idea what the movie is about, who is involved, who is in it, or any themes concerning the movie, I feel that it would be a disservice to our organization by not feigning outrage in order to shamelessly promote our group."

Another activist group, African Americans Against White People, aka AAACP, is also showing their ire for this movie. Lashanqua Johnson, the leader of the group, and a certified hater of Whitey, is up in arms over this film. "Look, ever since slavery, white people have been trying to keep us down, and I'm not gonna stand for it any longer. They still make me ride in the back of the bus. I don't know when that will ever change. I don't have a clue about this picture, know what I'm saying, but since it's probably gonna be over 2 hours long, I guarantee something's gonna offend us. White people always have something up their sleeve, and I'm not gonna stand by while they denigrate us and sh*t." When told that it could be a black person who makes the film, Lashanqua cried, "What'd you say, are you a racist? What are you trying to say?"

Some cynics are probably saying that the recent outcry over the movie *The Passion of the Christ* is the reason that all these groups are planning protests. Ray Canter, an expert on movie and culture relations, definitely agrees with this. "All of these groups are becoming a little envious, they think the Jews are stealing all their thunder," he says, referring to the Jew's taking offense to Christ. "They want to be in the spotlight too, and even though there is not actually a movie out right now that they can use, they choose movies slated for release years in the future to vent their fake outrage. You can't blame them. I don't think that Jews should be getting all the attention. But I do think that these groups should be using a movie that actually exists. There will be plenty of opportunities for Blacks and Asians and Hispanics to be offended in the coming year. That I can guarantee."

[EDITOR'S NOTE: This column is a satirical work and is not based on facts.]

China Moon Restaurant

Fine Asian Dining

FREE DELIVERY to Saint Mary's Residence Halls

50% Off

Buy one entree at Reg. price, Get a 2nd Entree of equal or lesser value at 50% off.

Dine in/Take out only. Not valid with other offers. One coupon per address. Expires 3/10/04.

Delivery Special
No delivery charge
Free Chicken Chow Mein
(a \$6.25 value)

With any order over \$25.00 We deliver to most parts of Lamorinda.

Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per address. Expires 3/10/04.

380 Park Street

in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center
(between Nation's & Rheem Theater)

376-8558 or 376-1828

Open 7 days a week

Sunday-Thursday: 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday: 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

FREE additional parking behind the restaurant

80% of all campus sexual assaults involve alcohol

1-800-670-7273

Contra Costa County
24 Hour Rape Crisis Line

878-9207

24 Hour SMC Sexual Assault
Crisis Response Team

Players of the Week

sam carter

Despite being on a baseball team that has lost three in a row and getting off to a slow start, Sam Carter let loose on Saturday. Against Washington State, Carter went 3 for 4 with two home runs and 4 RBIs in a 7-5 loss. Carter's blasts came late in the game, the first one in the seventh inning and the other in the bottom of the ninth.

lauren shaughnessy

The women's basketball team has had a good week, completing season sweeps against both Santa Clara and USF, both in which Shaughnessy was a key cog. In the victory against Santa Clara, Shaughnessy chipped in 14 points, the second leading scorer. Earlier in the week against USF, she put up 10 points, a career high before Saturday's game.

-Sam Adams, Sports Editor

Score Card

Women's basketball (15-11)

| | 1 | 2 | Final |
|--------------|----|----|-------|
| Saint Mary's | 33 | 41 | 74 |
| USF | 27 | 39 | 66 |

| | 1 | 2 | Final |
|--------------|----|----|-------|
| Saint Mary's | 36 | 38 | 74 |
| Sant Clara | 31 | 29 | 60 |

T. Jackson - 17 points

Men's basketball (17-10)

| | 1 | 2 | Final |
|--------------|----|----|-------|
| Saint Mary's | 28 | 42 | 70 |
| Santa Clara | 19 | 21 | 40 |

D. Kickert - 18 points
E.J. Rowland - 17 points
P. Marigney - 15 points

Women's Lacrosse

(14) Stanford 13, SMC 9
Denver 13, SMC 7

Tennis

Women: SMC v. UC Davis ppd (rain)
Men: Cal Poly def. SMC 5-2
SMC v. USF ppd. (rain)
Utah def. SMC 5-2

Softball (4-7)

| | R | H | E |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| Saint Mary's | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| Humboldt State | 0 | 5 | 0 |

| | R | H | E |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| Saint Mary's | 2 | - | - |
| Sac State | 1 | - | - |

Baseball (3-8)

| | R | H | E |
|--------------|---|----|---|
| Saint Mary's | 2 | 9 | 2 |
| Sac State | 8 | 12 | 1 |

| | R | H | E |
|----------------|---|----|---|
| Saint Mary's | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| Washington St. | 7 | 10 | 1 |

| | R | H | E |
|--------------|---|----|---|
| Saint Mary's | 3 | 7 | 0 |
| Santa Clara | 5 | 10 | 2 |

SPORTS
Gaels break out the brooms
Men's basketball sweeps season series against Broncos

by Sam Adams & Michael Chin
Sports Editor & Staff Writer

When you can't win them all, it's oh so sweet to beat the team you love to hate.

The men's basketball team did just that on Saturday, completing a season sweep of Santa Clara with a 70-40 victory at the Levy Center.

With this victory the Gaels remain in a deadlock with Pepperdine for second in the conference. Moreover these two wins mark yet another chapter in perhaps one of the oldest rivalries in West Coast athletics. Beginning in the late 19th century, the Gaels and the Broncos have been at each other's throats for over one hundred years.

The rivalry originally started out as an annual rugby game between the two schools, and it quickly grew into a national prominence with the rise in major college football in the 1920's and 30's. The "Little Big Game," in which SMC and SCU would play would mark one of the greatest college football rivalries of its era. Both schools during this time were nationally ranked and so when they met the stakes were higher than ever.

With the induction of major women's athletics and other men's sports this rivalry has spread far and wide, throughout alumni and students alike. The dropping of football by the Broncos in 1993 saw the end of the once glorious Little Big Game and the oldest football game on the west coast. Saint Mary's got the last laugh, crushing the Broncos in the final meeting, 52-21. From there the

battles have been justly fought in men's basketball and women's soccer, among others. This then leads us to the latest chapter in our rival's history.

In the first half the Gaels attempted to pull away from the Broncos countless times, but they were never able to extend the lead past 13.

In the second half however things started to get out of hand for the Broncos as Saint Mary's stifling defense led by guard E.J. Rowland and senior forward Chase Poole forced the Broncos to give up easy baskets early and often. Inside, Daniel Kickert pounded his way into the paint for several tough buckets, scoring 15 of his 18 points in the second half.

The Gaels also had a very poised demeanor throughout the game as the Bronco fans had no effect on them.

For the Gaels it was a physical game as both teams pounded the glass hard, each searching for opportunities on the offensive glass. Forward Frederic Adjiwanou

lead all Gaels in rebounding with seventeen boards.

E.J. Rowland added sixteen and Tyler "downtown" Herr went fifty percent from three point range, banging in 4 or 8 from beyond the arc.

With the win, the Gaels will have two big games next week against Loyola Marymount and Pepperdine. The later will most likely be a battle for second place in the WCC behind #6 Gonzaga. It won't be long until the Gaels are back in action at Santa Clara, as they will return to Levy Center in two weeks for the WCC tournament.

The women's team did their part as well, also sweeping the season series against the Broncos at McKeon Pavillion Saturday night.

In the 74-60 victory, Lindsie Lopez had seven rebounds, a career high, while Triola Jackson led the Gaels in scoring with 17 points. Lauren Shaughnessy chipped in 14 points of her own.

The victory improves the Gaels to 15-11, 7-5 in the WCC.



Tina McAfee/COLLEGIAN

Gaels stifle Cardinal
Rugby team handcuffs Stanford in victory

by Michael Chin
Staff Writer

What a difference a week makes. Coming back from a week off, one would think that the men's rugby team would be a bit rusty, even flat. This, however, was not the case as the Gaels went into Stanford and handed the Cardinal back-to-back losses in both the A-side and B-side games. In the earlier contest St. Mary's prevailed 33-14 as the Gael's speed was just too much for the Cardinal. The onslaught began when the Gaels promptly marched down the field for a try, Damien Fatongia getting the score after battling an early season face injury against Arizona. From there subsequent scores came from prospective All-American Dan Heller, Pat Fillet, and Matt Leatherby.

The Gaels also got a good sense of what they can be like on all four cylinders. Ball movement across the back-line looked much improved without the murky waters of Pat Vincent field as passing seemed much crisper and Gaels were able to get the ball to the outside edge where their speed is as good as anyone in the country. Overall, the Gaels showed a glimpse of what they can really do. Injuries to key players such as Fatongia, Dan Heller, and most recently speedster Michael O'Hare, have made this season somewhat more difficult than players and coaches had hoped for. With players such as these coming back late in the season, the Gaels look to make a late season push for the national championship later this spring.

On the B Side, the Gaels dis-

played the next generation of SMC rugby talent. Headlining for the Gaels in the second half was sophomore Volney Rouse. After suffering a quad injury early in the season, he made his season debut on the B-side and immediately made an impact putting together several runs for tries throughout the game. The scoring, though, came from more than just Rouse, as Billy Martinez, Dan Tabacco, and John Porter also paved the way for the onslaught. Here again the Gaels displayed their speed with several long runs eluding the Cardinal at all ends of the field. Final score Gaels 71-21. Tune in next week as the Gaels take on U.C. Davis in conference action. This game will be very important as the Gaels look extend their record to three and two in league action.

Corrections to article (Chin's Corner) in Issue 14, Feb. 18. Rugby is not an NCAA team, therefore they have never been to an NCAA tournament. Discussions and proposals on the development of Pat Vincent field began in June of 2003 and the team has not raised any money for the project to date. Coach John Everett organized the proposal which focused on repair of the field and did not include development of a club house, a bridge, nor viewing stands. The team hasn't had anything approved by the City of Moraga and Coach O'Brien has not heard any "ok's". There are currently no plans to build a bridge and the land between the field and the parking lot is embud land. Only one injury has occurred due to poor irrigation this season. Plans to restructure the field were passed to Carl Clapp in June 2003.

Out Of Bounds

scott burrola

As February winds down, the talk of March Madness heats up. With just a few crucial conference games left across the country, the bid to make one of the 64 slots in the NCAA tournament is diminishing rapidly. With 31 automatic bids going to conference winners, the open slots for at-large teams are going to be tough to come by; in addition to the sub .500 teams with a shot at the Big Dance, by way of winning their obscure Mid-East Valley Central Dakota Sun Conference tournament. Every game from here on out matters for teams on the bubble, whose hopes could be erased with just one more loss.

The strongest conference is the ACC who hopes to go dancing with seven teams.

The Big East is in a mess with probably four bubble teams, who need strong conference tournament showings. The defending champion Syracuse is still not a lock to be granted an at-large bid, though the outlook looks promising.

The weakest of the major conference this year, the Pac-10, barring a Wildcat or Cardinal conference tournament meltdown, will send only two teams. With such high hopes from an always-competitive Oregon program, a young Cal team, and a UCLA team who is always unsuccessfully striving to return to their Wooden-era, the Pac-10 is the biggest disappointment among major conferences.

The Big Ten looks to have three teams in Wisconsin, Michigan State, and Illinois, while the Big-12 is hoping for a fifth in Oklahoma or Missouri.

Conference USA ought to have an all-time high with five teams this March, and the SEC has five locks.

The West Coast Conference is sending one team to the tournament right now, still only one less than the neighboring Pac-10. Gonzaga, undefeated in conference play, and ranked No. 6 nationally, will be lone team going to tournament as of right now.

Their toughest conference games have come against Saint Mary's. The Gaels, currently in second place, have the talent and the victories this season to be a legitimate contender in the field of 64. But with their weaker schedule, this year's team will need to win the conference tournament in Santa Clara, to be assured a bid.

On paper, a team from a second-tier conference with double-digit losses is rarely if ever considered by the tournament committee.

On a neutral court, and a Gonzaga team already assured of a bid, maybe the Gaels can be that second team from the WCC, with a monumental WCC tournament championship. Maybe the Gaels can be that team who ruins many tournament brackets being filled out come March.